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Denſel Hollis, Eſquire;

His worthy and learned

SPEECH

IN

PARLIAMENT,

*Decemb.*30. 1631.

Vpon the Reading of the Petition and Proteſtation of the twelve Biſhops, for which they were accuſed of High Treaſon, and committed to the Tower of *London.*

Wherein is diſcovered the danger of this Proteſtation, that it is both againſt the King and his Royall Prerogatives, the Priviledges of Parliament, the Liberties of the Subject, and the ſubverſion of the Fundamentall Lawes of this Kingdom.

LONDON, printed. 1641.

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A SPEECH MADE BY MASTER *HOLLIS*

In PARLIAMENT, upon the reading of the Petition and Proteſtation of the twelve Biſhops, ſince committed to the Tower on Thurſday the 30th. of *December*. 1641.

Maſter Speaker,

THis Petition and Proteſtation of the Biſhops preſented to his Majeſty, is the chief ſubject of our preſent debate, I deſire, under the favour of this Honourable Houſe, to ſpeak ſomewhat concerning the ſame, and in ſpeaking thereof I ſhall obſerve the perſons that deluded it, the ſubject and matter conteined in the ſame; the dangerous effects that are likely to follow thereupon if it be not ſuddenly prevented; And laſtly, their crime in making and deluding thereof.

Firſt, Maſter *Speaker*, concerning the perſons Actors of this Tragedy, Biſhops of an holy function, the denomination of their ſtile preſcribes them in Scripture to be men of God, Fathers of the Church, Stars, (not blazing Comets or Me-

teors? (as it is apparant many of them have been) lights, the salt of the earth, that should season the hearts, lives, and conversation of the people of God, with piety and godlinesse. For these Men, Master Speaker, the hinderers of the peace and quiet of the Kingdome, is extreame vilenesse, for Bishops, Governours, (aswell as teachers of the people of God) to instruct, admonish, rebuke, reprove, and correct evill doers in the Clergy, for these I say not onely to connive, and winke at superstition, Innovations, and Ceremonies introduced into the Church, by the inferiour and scandalous Ministers, but to animate and encourage them in their evill practises, nay not contented therewith, but themselves to Innovate Religion, corrupt the true and *Orthodox* doctrine of the Church, to attempt, to entice and draw the minds of Peeres, Nobles, and great officers of State; nay his most sacred Majesty, to favour their indeavours and designes, shew them plainely to be the Instruments of the Devill, striving to increase and build his Kingdome, to the decay of the propagation of the Gospell, and the Kingdome of Christ, to whom they would seeme to be devoted, these corrupt Officers and Ministers Master *Speaker*, both in Church and State, have produced these corrupt and dangerous times, that it is that makes Religion seeme vile, and hatefull to most men, that it is Master *Speaker* that staines their function, of it selfe uncorrupted (sacred) this changes their names of being called men of God, to be men serving only the Devill, if Fathers and nurses of the Church, prove the betrayers of the Church,

woe to that flocke of whom Christ is the sheapheards; If starres fall to the earth, wee notifie thereby great change and alterations in a state to insue; if the lights of the Church be put out, or put out themselves, or be hid and appeare not, how is it likely the Children of God should see to walke in the right way, If salt be corrupt and putrified and thereby loseth its savour, what profitteth it for the use of man, you know the Phrase well enough. Then Master Speaker to conclude these persons (that have had all these titles) that have (as we have proved by wofull experience, shamed themselves, complyable to all the defects that are thus dishonourable to their denominations) are as I under favour conceive altogether unfit, and unworthy to bear them any longer.

2. Now *Master Speaker* I come in the second place to the subject of their Petition and Protestation, which is of most dangerous Consequence, beeing altogether treacherous, both against his most sacred Majesty his Royal Queen and Princely Progeny, his rightfull Throne seated over all his Majesties Kingdomes, against the Fundamentall lawes of this Kingdom and all other statutes and lawes made for the good Government thereof by the wisdome of his Majestie and his great and wise Councell of state, against the Priviledges of Parliament and free proceedings thereof, And against all his Majesties loyall subjects that are true and good Protestants.

3. Thirdly the dangerous effects of this their Malitious and traiterous actions are easie to be guessed at.

1. By

1. By this meanes the diviſion between the two Houſes may be encreaſed, the Lords moſt of them favouring their cauſe, thereby keeping them from comming to triall upon our accuſations of them for their haynous crimes committed by them.

2. If they proceed in their intentions, it may prove the main cauſe of ſetting an irreconcileable diviſion between the King and his liege people who deſire their grievances may be redreſt, and all Malefactours delinquents receive condigne puniſhment for their miſdeeds both in Church and State; and eſpecially the Biſhops accuſed, whom they conceive to have been the principall incendiaries between *Scotland* and us, great favourers of the dangerous Rebellion in *Ireland*, chief Actours in innovating our Religion, and the greateſt oppreſſours of Parliamentary proceedings.

3. By this attempt the Romiſh Faction will be much emboldened to put in practice their wicked plots privately now in agitation amongſt them.

4. It may cauſe great uproares and tumults in the City, and about *Weſtminſter*, of the Citizens, who are altogether ſet againſt Biſhops.

5. It will be a great encouragement to forraigne Princes that are diſaffected, and private enemies to this State, (ſeeing our diviſions between our ſelves) to put in practiſe ſome dangerous deſigne againſt the whole Kingdom.

6. Laſtly, it will diſable us for continuall ſupply of aid into *Ireland* to appeaſe the Rebellion there.

4. I come now (Maſter *Speaker*) to the fourth and laſt thing I intimate to you concerning this Petition,

Petition, and that is, what fault they have committed, in framing and dilivering the ſame, my opinon is, Maſter Speaker, that they are guilty of high treaſon; I will give you a few reaſons and grounds of this my opinion, and then humbly leave it to the further Conſideration of this Honourable houſe.

To proteſt againſt the proceedings of a free Parliament is adjudged high treaſon in the tenth yeare of *Edward* the Second, by the Parliament holden then at *Weſtminſter*, where the Biſhop of Yorke, the Duke of Suffolke, and others of that conſpiracy, proteſting againſt the proceedings of the Parliament for their Appointing and placing the Commiſſioners about the King for the Government of the Kingdom for one yeare, were adjudged Guilty of high treaſon, and ſome of them Executed, ſome baniſhed, and the reſt fled.

2 To endeavour to ſubvert the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdom, was adjudged high treaſon in the Earle of Straffords caſe, may example of Strafford take this preſent Parliament, & to proteſt or inſence the King by petition, or otherwiſe againſt the proceedings of Parliament, (which is a conſtitution of Government, found to be the antienteſt of this Nation, and the onely meanes to preſerve and defend the fundamentall Lawes of this Kingdom; the powerfull Counſell of judicature, to puniſh all delinquents in the Government therof, & the breakers, & infringers of the laws, of this land) is to ſubvert the fundamental laws,

3. To endeavour to bring into this ſtate an Arbitrary

bitrary way of government was likewise by this Parliament adjudged high treason in the Earle of *Straffords* case, to protest against Parliamentary proceedings, is to change the forme of government, and to introduce an Arbitrary and tyranical forme of Government, for these reasons I conceive Master *Speaker* these Bishops that have signed this petition and protestation are guilty of high treason.

And my humble motion, is we may send up to the Lords to accuse them particular and with all convenient speed make ready a Charge or Impeachment of high treason against them.

FINIS.